

2025 General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour
CRO Decision in the matter of Haseeb Arshad and Aashish Kumar
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Summary of alleged or discerned breach

- The complainant alleges that the respondent sent unsolicited messages to unknown undergraduate students who were not his personal contacts, and obtained these students' contact information from a moderated Pakistani WhatsApp group. The complaint alleges that the respondent has messaged all members of this group.
- The evidence presented by the complainant included a screenshot of a WhatsApp message from someone saying they do not know the respondent, and that they received a message from the respondent with their campaign poster.

Parties to the complaint or breach

- Complainant: Haseeb Arshad
- Respondent: Aashish Kumar

Summary of decision making process

- As per I.POL.11.4.a, the CRO reached out to the respondent for a response.
 - The respondent notes that he has not extracted information from, or used a moderated forum in any capacity.
- The CRO provided ERC with both the complaint and response. The CRO recommended a minimum penalty of a warning, to a maximum of 2-3 demerit points.
 - Members of ERC discussed that the evidence presented by the complainant is circumstantial and there is no way to prove any contact information was obtained from a moderated forum such as a WhatsApp group chat.
 - Members of ERC unanimously agreed to issue a written reprimand to the respondent to refrain from any communication with non-personal contacts through any social media or messaging apps, as well as deleting any messages that may have been sent. This applies to all candidates.

Applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations, other applicable policies/laws

- I.POL.10.9.b Candidates will circulate campaign materials in-person and through personal social media and email only to their personal contacts and will not utilize moderated forums (see definitions).
 - "Moderated Forum" is defined as an email or group message (e.g. WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) list where the membership is compiled by a third-party and/or communications are sent to email list owners for review and/or approval prior to circulation to subscribers

Decided upon penalties and/or remedial actions

- This CRO decision acts as a written reprimand (I.POL.11.4.c.i) to the respondent.

Appeal process and time limit

- The appeal process is outlined in I.POL.11.6.